

TEMPTED BY GAIN, THOUSANDS RISK LIVES ON SLOPES OF TREACHEROUS VESUVIUS

Soil, Said to Be Enriched by
Ashes of Volcano, Very
Productive.

REFUSE TO BE WARNED

Often Driven Away, as Regularly
Return to Fiery Mountain.
The Recent Eruption.

By Edwin Bowen.

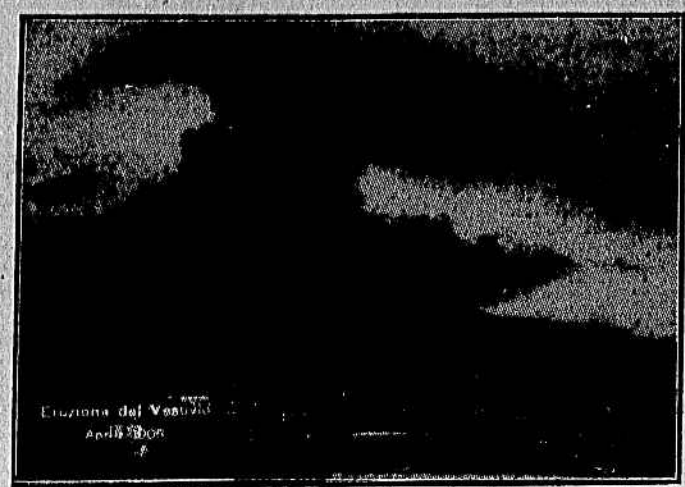
NAPLES, June 2.—There are many interesting places in the vicinity of Naples, but the city is situated in a locality rich in legend and history, but of the many places, none, perhaps, surpasses Vesuvius in point of popular interest. Certainly Vesuvius has attracted more public attention in the past few months than any other place about Naples. But this volcano has been in such an ugly mood of late that very few tourists desire to come into close proximity to it. Most visitors are content this season to behold it from a safe distance and leave it serenely alone.

Your first impression on seeing Vesuvius, especially if you first see it from the city, is somewhat of a disappointment. We are accustomed to picture it in our minds as a solitary peak rising high out of the plain east of Naples and appearing in the distance as a dark, jagged, and threatening wall. But this is not an accurate picture, for Vesuvius is not a high mountain, and it has another mountain, called Monte Somma, immediately by its side, from which the volcano is separated only by a small valley. Moreover, as you behold Vesuvius from the harbor, the mountain appears very near and rather unimposing. Indeed so unimposing does this famous volcano seem to be from the deck of the ship that many of our passengers could hardly be persuaded that it was Vesuvius, believing that it was simply one of the many mountains which lie to the east of the Bay of Naples.

Formed by Volcano.
The companion mountain of Vesuvius, namely, Monte Somma, is about 3,500 feet high, and is said to have been formed by the vast quantities of lava and ashes thrown out by the action of the volcano during the centuries. The topography of Vesuvius has changed more or less from age to age, according to the degree of its activity. Likewise, its height varies in proportion to its activity.

Vesuvius rises out of the plain of the Campagna, in the vicinity of the Bay of Naples, and reaches a height usually of 4,000 feet, or more. However, at present, as a result of the recent eruption, the mountain is not so high, several hundred feet of its peak having been blown off or fallen in. So, now it does not appear higher than some of the many peaks of the spur of the Apennines in the direction of Sorrento.

The slopes of Vesuvius have hitherto been covered with flourishing vineyards, and seen from a distance, the mountain even up toward its top, appeared clad in verdure. But many of these vineyards have recently been entirely overwhelmed and buried under the flow of lava. Still the destruction wrought by the recent eruption does not seem to be so extensive as first reports of the catastrophe led us to believe. To be sure, the destruction is great and a vast area of the cultivated mountain slope toward the sea now lies buried deep under fresh lava. But much of the surface lies untouched by lava and many of the fine vineyards are still in a flourishing condition. At least so it appears to one viewing the slopes from a distance in the Bay of Naples. By the way, a magnificent view of Vesuvius may be had from this point, and the mountain stands out in all its grandeur and majesty. But frequently clouds envelop the top of the mountain, and the view is thus marred. Sometimes the clouds ap-



Photograph Taken at Naples During Recent Eruption of Vesuvius

pear to hover over the base of the mountain, while the peak is shrouded with sunlight.

Lava Spared Scientists.

It is an interesting study to trace with the eye the various courses of the lava streams in the recent eruption. Above the government observatory, which is about half way up the mountain, everything appears to have been completely submerged by the lava streams. But at this point, fortunately, the streams separated, leaving the observatory unharmed, though, of course, doing some damage to the building. To the casual observer, it seems little short of an act of Providence that the lava streams should have divided at this point, and flowed around the observatory, thus sparing the lives of the scientists stationed there. The world was thrilled by the courage and bravery of these two men who, like the Roman sentinel of old at the destruction of Pompeii by this same Vesuvius, dared to stand at their post, though momentarily threatened with death.

It is said, indeed, to behold the wondrous destruction recently wrought by Vesuvius. Fortunately, the loss of life was small; but the loss of property, especially vineyards, was, no doubt, very great. Moreover, a number of houses were destroyed in the villages in the direction of Naples. These villages were on the slopes in the vicinity of Torre del Greco and Torre del Annunziata.

The country about the base of Vesuvius is very fertile and thickly settled. Along the electric road from Naples to Portici is a succession of towns, so that it appears to be a continuous city. Farther up the mountain slopes and beyond these towns, there are numerous villages and hamlets. Now it was the inhabitants of these small places on the mountain slopes that suffered most in the eruption a few months ago. Many of the farmers and peasants had their homes and farms entirely ruined, the people themselves barely escaping with their lives.

The red-hot lava came rushing down the mountain sides, sweeping everything before it, and burying the green vineyards and fields many feet under its scorching surface. Luckily, there were no large villages or towns in its course, and for this reason the destruction of life and property was not greater. However, the damage and destruction were considerable. Much damage resulted from the collapsing of roofs under the heavy weight of ash and cinders, which were driven by the wind to a great distance. It cost the city of Naples quite a large sum of money to sweep up and cart away the cinders and soot, which were showered upon it. You may still see here and there in the city traces of the ash, and in the suburban towns the ash is still piled up in huge heaps along the streets, remaining to be carted away. But the work of clearing away the cinders and cleaning the streets is proceeding gradually, and is well advanced. Little trace remains in Naples. It requires a drive up Vesuvius to reveal the dismal condition of the afflicted country.

Since the recent eruption, however, no one ventures to ascend to the crater. You may go only up to the meteorological station, about half way up the mountain, it being unsafe to go farther. But this half-way ascent is sufficient to enable one to form a somewhat accurate and adequate idea of the terror and dismay the recent eruption must have inspired in the minds of the witnesses and actual sufferers. The ruins are still smoldering. Some of the houses appear partially submerged by lava, and a church is pointed out with the lava heaped up around it. It is a place of great interest upon the hard crust of the cooling lava, which has not yet entirely solidified. In other places the lava is still in such a state that if you throw bits of paper upon it, they will ignite and burn.

Vesuvius appears now to have vented all its spleen and is perfectly content. In vain do you strain your eyes to descry a faint column of smoke issuing from the crater; but none can be seen. For the present, at least, the wrath of the volcano has subsided and it seems as innocent as a lamb. But the distressing record of its recent conduct and of its recent ruthless destruction of life and property stands written upon its frightful lava-covered slopes, extending well-nigh to its base, and threatening the cities of Torre del Greco and Torre Annunziata.

Risk Life for Gain.
These same dismal and barren lava-covered slopes, however, will, in a few years, be again clothed with verdure and covered over with smiling vineyards; for the ashes of Vesuvius are said greatly to enrich the soil, and the soil itself about Naples is so fertile and responsive that you but tickle it, it will smile in a harvest. Moreover the people are unable to resist the temptation to cultivate such inviting mountain slopes and, therefore, they will gradually venture to plant vineyards farther and farther up the mountain, thus encroaching upon the legitimate territory of the volcano in the zone of danger.

It is a passing strange how men will court danger, risking both life and property, for the sake of gain. The past history of Vesuvius offers abundant and striking illustration of this fact. For time and again in the past this volcano has belched forth death and destruction upon the slopes below; and yet, no sooner are the desolate slopes again clad with vegetation than men begin once more to cultivate the rich, inviting soil and build themselves homes and plant vineyards. This is manifestly flying in the face of peril and presuming upon Providence. It looks, for all the world, like foolhardiness to build homes under the very nose of a frowning volcano, in the very zone of probable death, as the people around Vesuvius do. They flatter refuse to be warned by the pathetic examples of the past.

History has written a terrible record against Vesuvius. Nine eruptions of this

volcano are recorded up to the year 1000, and a still greater number from that date to the present time. Of the early eruptions, the worst occurred in the year 79 A. D., when the ancient cities of Stabiae, Herculaneum and Pompeii, with all their countless treasures, were utterly buried under the overflow of lava, and wiped out of existence. The Roman author Pliny the Younger has given us a graphic description of that horrible catastrophe in a letter to his friend, Tacitus, narrating the circumstances of the death of his uncle, Pliney the Elder, who perished in the eruption. In the eruption of the year 1631, several other cities were destroyed and over 3,000 human beings lost their lives. These two eruptions are the most disastrous on record.

Upon the site of the ancient Herculaneum, which was buried in the eruption of the year 79, another city was built only to share a similar fate in the eruption of 1631. Strange to say, still another city was later built upon this same site, where two cities in turn had been previously overwhelmed. But this city, though it was damaged, still stands and is known as Resina. The ancient city of Herculaneum lies buried many feet below Resina, the modern city. This is one reason why so little of Herculaneum has been excavated. Of the excavations of this city and of that of Pompeii, we shall have something to say in our next letter, telling of the many interesting discoveries brought to light there.

Rappahannock Conference.

(Special to The Times-Dispatch.)
SHROOKVALE, VA., July 14.—The second day's session of the Rappahannock District Conference opened Thursday morning at a conference with devotional exercises, conducted by Rev. W. J. Williams. Additional reports were heard from charges not represented at the first day's session.

The names of the local preachers on the district were of the following were passed: C. L. Depps, A. F. Rice, J. J. Clark, W. W. Walker, R. V. Owen and G. E. Thomas. Reports on the subject of missions were received, showing that the Rappahannock District is living up to her past record in this important subject. The proposition was made that this district support a missionary in the foreign field. Immediately about \$400 annually was pledged to this purpose, and a committee was appointed to solicit additions to the amount already pledged. The discussion on the subject of missions was followed by a missionary sermon by Rev. E. F. Garner.

Among the visitors introduced to the conference were Rev. J. S. Peters, of the Baltimore and Richmond Christian Advocate; Dr. R. H. Bennett, of Randolph-Macon College, representing the State Anti-Slavery League; Dr. James Cannon, president of the Blackstone Peninsula Institute; Dr. R. E. Blackwell, president of Randolph-Macon College; Professor E. Sumner Smith, principal of Randolph-Macon Academy, at Bedford City; and Rev. J. W. Eure, representing the alumni fund of Randolph-Macon College.

The reports on Sunday schools and Epworth Leagues were made and followed by short discussions. The attendance in the second day's session was very large, despite the threatening state of the weather. The exercises of the day closed with a sermon by Rev. H. H. Smith.

Costly Water Bill.

(Special to The Times-Dispatch.)
SALISBURY, N. C., July 14.—As a result of a water spigot being left open in the Elks' Club in this city early yesterday morning, more than \$5,000 worth of clothing of the firm of Smoot Bros. & Rogers, situated under the club, was badly damaged by the flood of water which followed. The water was turned off at about midnight, but it had done great damage. The loss was estimated at five hours' work.

Chicago World's Food Center.

The value of all the animals slaughtered in the United States in one year is about one billion dollars. Nearly one-third of the entire live stock production of the country is marketed in Chicago. Therefore, conditions and prices here naturally control prices in all other American live stock and meat markets. Within this one square mile in the city of Chicago is concentrated, and from it is distributed, the greatest food output that is supplied from any equal area in the world. The annual sales from the Chicago packing-houses amount to nearly \$300,000,000 in a year. The largest cash business in any one institution in the world is done at the Chicago stock yards. Every day an average of \$1,000,000 cash changes hands here. One of six banks at the yards does a business of \$470,000,000 in a single year. During every twelve months since 1900 more than 16,000,000 animals, worth over \$250,000,000, have been brought to the Union Stock Yards in more than 300,000 cars. In this remarkable one square mile, 45,000 persons are employed—40,000 in Packingtown and 5,000 in the yards; and these 45,000 support nearly 200,000 more.

The stock yards receive 10,000,000 animals a year. Packingtown slaughters a large proportion and distributes them as meat products to the whole world; and this operation involves directly the welfare of 8,000,000 men and their families on the farms and ranches of the United States. I have given these facts to show how important it is that one who investigates and makes a report on the conditions of the Chicago packing-houses should be absolutely fair, just, unbiased, and above all, conservative and not sensational.—Henry Shedd Beardsley, in Leslie's Weekly.

Let The Times-Dispatch be sent you wherever you go this summer. Don't forget to order it before leaving. Address changed as often as desired.

Orders for Medallions will be taken this week on tickets already punched to the extent of \$10.
The giving out and punching of tickets discontinued after July 14th.

Miller & Rhoads

Your Choice of Any Wash Suit, This Season's Styles, Original Prices to \$15, \$4.85 Linens, Lawns, Reps, Mercerized Madras and Gingham

The sizes are somewhat broken in some of the styles, but you'll find every size in the assortment.

It is without doubt the best collection of values in Wash Suits ever offered in Richmond at \$4.85, because the styles are so up-to-date in every particular and the quality and finish of the garments first-class.

\$4.85

The Linen Suits are in white, half bleached and brown.

The other materials come in plain white, white piped with light blue, black and white checks and stripes, lavender, blue, pink and cadet.

Slight charge for alterations. Shop early tomorrow morning if you wish the choice of this unequalled assortment of good values.

Selling More Trunks and Suit Cases Than Ever Before

Is the report that comes to us from the Trunk Department. It's what we expected to do, as the best values in the town are to be found here.

Here's a Trunk for \$10.98 that we haven't seen the equal of under \$12.50.

Automatic Trunk, 36-inch size, trimmed with brass, lined with linen, has an extra skirt tray and double strap, handsome looking and serviceable \$10.98

Another very good value is a 38-inch Flat Top Trunk, with heavy iron corners and bottom, good brass lock, double strap, \$6.

A Trunk that we sell at \$4.25 is a regular \$5 value, 34 inch size, covered with canvas, double strap, good brass lock.

The best very low price Trunk made is the 30-inch article that we're selling for \$2.50.

Canvas covered, iron bottom and corners; good brass lock. The makers put it out as a leader. Very little profit—can't be for the value given.

Gentlemen's Roller Tray Trunk, heavy duck cover, fibre bound, lined with linen, double strap, heavy brass corners, Yale lock; worth \$15. Price, \$12.50.

Another underprice Trunk is a ten dollar value that we offer at \$7.50. Good size—36 inches—lined with linen, fibre bound, brass trimmed, double straps.

A special that we secured to sell at a very low figure.

The New Suit Cases, Traveling Bags and Telescopes.

About every size and price from the 12-inch IMITATION ALLIGATOR BAG at 55c, up to the finest leather articles made.

14-inch Hornback Alligator and Black Walrus Leather Bags, \$4.50 and \$5.50, respectively.

22-inch Imitation Alligator Suit Cases, waterproof, \$1.10.

22-inch Cow Leather Suit Cases, well made, lined with linen, \$2.75.

24-inch Keratol (imitation of leather) Suit Cases, lined with muslin, brass bolts and lock, \$1.75.

24-inch Solid Leather Suit Cases, brass bolts, heavy corners, shirt-fold, lined with linen, a splendid value at \$4.30.

Desirable Wash Goods At Reduced Prices

The best of the styles naturally sell the quickest. We have many lots much reduced in quantity, and as we cannot duplicate our orders, the prices on these small lots have been cut low enough to clean out the entire assortment during the coming week.

25c Zephyr Gingham, 19c Yard.	25c Eddy Silk, 15c Yard.	12 1/2c Voiles, 8 1/3c Yard.
25c Embroidered Gingham, 17c Yard.	12 1/2c and 15c Organdie, 9 1/2c Yard.	30c Silk Organdie, 19c Yard.
25c Check Suiting, 12 1/2c Yard.	12 1/2c Silk Effects, 8 1/3c Yard.	30c Silk and Linen Tissue, 10c Yard.

8 1/3c and 10c Lawns and Batiste, yard, 5c

About one thousand yards of Fine Printed Lawn and Batiste on sale Monday at 5c yard. We're cleaning house for fall goods.

12 1/2c Navy and Black Figured Batiste, yard, 6 1/2c

1,200 yards in the lot. The navy grounds have small, neat white patterns scattered through them. The black grounds have different size dots. An extra fine quality. Big seller this season. What's left goes out at half price.

A Beautiful Tea Jacket of China Silk, \$5.50

Just as dainty as it can possibly be and really inexpensive.

The colors are light blue and pink, made with a deep sailor collar and trimmed with one row of Val. lace insertion and lace edge.

Sleeves and bottom of the jacket finished in the same manner. Your summer wardrobe will not be quite complete without one of these garments.

"Clean Hand Powder," 15c Jar

A new toilet preparation that we're introducing to the Richmond public. It does all you expect soap to do—and more.

Guaranteed absolutely pure; removes all kinds of stains from the hands.

Possesses all the whitening and softening qualities of the finest toilet soaps.

Equally efficient in hard and soft or hot and cold water. Ask for circular at Toilet Department. Large size glass jar, 15c.

500 yards of 25c White Dotted Swiss, 15c

'Twas all a jobber had, and to clean up, offered us the goods at almost half price.

*Small size pin dots—fine, sheer goods.

White English Madras, 12 1/2 and 17c yd

Regular Values 19c and 25c.

We imported the goods from England direct, thereby saving the importer's profits. Neat, pretty designs. The 12 1/2c goods have a linen finish. The 17c fabrics have a soft finish.

Extra Large Huck Towel 12 1/2c 21x43 inches

An all cotton Towel, but finished to look and feel like linen; red borders.

The unusually large size of this towel makes it the best value of its kind to be found at 12 1/2c.

"Rub Dry" Towels, 12 1/2c

Lowest price ever quoted for these towels, but we only have a small lot of them; Monday's clearing price will be 12 1/2c.

A Pretty Crepe Kimono, \$2

Short Kimonos, good quality crepe, in white grounds, with pretty figure effects in colors. The border of the garment is made of silk, in solid colors. Very attractive and low in prices for the value given.

Hemstitched Linen Scarfs and Shams in the Art Department Under Price.

The Scarfs are 18x54 inches, made with one and two rows of drawwork.

The Shams are 30x30 inches, also made with drawwork.

These beautiful pieces are worth regularly 68c. Our clearing up price is 45c.

Squares to match, 18x18 inches, 25c, worth fully 39c.

Sheets, 65 and 75c

The values at present prices of cotton are 85c and 95c—Atlantic Mills Sheets; none better.

81x90 inches and 90x90 inches respectively.

You'll save 20c on every sheet you buy from us.

Splendid Assortment of Porcelain Din- ner Sets, each, \$10

One hundred pieces in each one—the assortment including prettily decorated and gold-lined sets—white and gold sets, and some particularly beautiful under glazed border patterns in English porcelain.

The pieces are all large, and include among them a Soup Tureen.

For a very attractive Dinner Set at a low price we know of nothing to equal this assortment at ten dollars.

White German Porcelain Cups and Saucers, good size and dainty looking; our own importation; one dollar value, for 79c dozen.

THE WORLD'S FAVORITE

For Skin
and Scalp



For Toilet
and Bath

Because of its delicate, Medicinal, Emollient, Sanative, Antiseptic Properties, derived from Cuticura, the great Skin Cure, united with the purest of cleansing ingredients and most refreshing of flower odors. No other Skin Soap is so effective for preserving and purifying, the Skin, Scalp, Hair, and Hands. No other Toilet Soap so pure, so sweet, so satisfying.